

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USSS-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 FBIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SY-04 DRC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1686

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4125

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON KIDNAPPING: LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE FROM 1:00 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, UNTIL 4:30 P.M., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4.

1. AFTERNOON REPORTING BEGAN WITH THE CORRECTION OF MENDEZ VARGAS' STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS (DISCUTIR) THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED AND THE REPORTERS THOUGH HE HAD SAID "DESISTIR". THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE WAS READ SEVERAL TIMES, EMPHASIZING THAT THE LAST WORDS WERE "LIBERTY OR DEATH."

2. IT WAS REAFFIRMED BY BOTH THE MEXICAN AND PERUVIAN AMBASSADORS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC THAT NEIGHER OF THEIR COUNTRIES HAD BEEN APPROACHED REGARDING THE GRANTING OF POLITICAL ASYLUM TO THE KIDNAPPERS.

3. AROUND 3:00 P.M. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE THREE DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION HAD ARRIVED AT THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE. THEY TALKED AT A DISTANCE WITH MENDEZ VARGAS, THE FOOD WAS PICKED UP BY FRANK SANTANA AND MESSAGES HAD BEEN GIVEN TO POLICE OFFICIALS.

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4. EVENING AND LATE NIGHT COVERAGE WAS ESSENTIALLY A SUMMARY

OF EVENTS OF THE DAY. AN ATMOSPHERE OF "TENSE CALM" PREVAILED IN THE AREA AROUND THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE. THERE WERE COMMENTS RELATED TO PRESS COVERAGE OF THE KIDNAPPING, TELLING OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE NORTH AMERICAN PRESS AND THE DOMINICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN REPORTERS. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS THAT DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS CORPS HAD BEEN ROBBED. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS AT LA VICTORIA HAD ASKED THAT THERE BE A BLOODLESS AND RAPID SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. RADIO COMMENTATORS DISCUSSING THE KIDNAPPING LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE KIDNAPPING HAD FORCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE, PRINCIPALLY THE PROBLEM OF RAPIDLY INCREASING PRICES OF FLOUR AND MILK.

5. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4. MORNING REPORTING SUMMARIZED EVENTS. COMMENTARIES SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE KIDNAPPERS DID NOT INDICATE INDIFFERENCE OR INSENSITIVITY ON PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S PART. HIS SILENCE ON THE MATTER IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL TACTIC WHICH IS APPARENTLY WORKING BECAUSE MENDEZ VARGAS HAS DECREASED HIS DEMANDS. IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER CANNOT GIVE IN TO THE DEMANDS OF THE TERRORISTS BECAUSE SUCH A CAPITULATION WOULD BE A STIMULUS FOR OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS TO USE THE SAME TACTIC.

6. AT 4:00 P.M. THE CHIEFS OF MISSION ARRIVED AT THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE AGAIN AND THIS TIME MENDEZ VARGAS CAME OUT OF THE CONSULATE AND TALKED WITH THE DIPLOMATS. THE DISTANCE BETWEEN MENDEZ VARGAS AND THE THREE ENVOYS WAS ABOUT FOUR FEET AND MENDEZ VARGAS SEEMED TO BE VERY CONFIDENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2002 by golinofr>  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, DR, (HUTCHINSON, BARBARA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005